

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are pending. Claim 3 has been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okumura et al. (JP 04-353613). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura et al. as well over Okumura et al. in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that dependent Claim 3 has been cancelled therefore the §103(a) rejection against Claim 3 should be rendered moot. Additionally, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has elected to amend independent Claim 1 to recite a rotary head that includes that includes at least one pair of magnetic heads "wherein the magnetic heads are arranged so as to have the same height from the corresponding gaps to board surfaces of the corresponding boards and such that the magnetic heads fixed to the respective boards attached to the rotating cylinders are symmetric with respect to a rotating axis of the rotating cylinder." Emphasis added. Independent Claim 1 has been further amended to recite "wherein, of the pair of magnetic heads, the one magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or greater than +10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board and the other magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or less than -10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board." Emphasis added. At a minimum, the cited reference fails to disclose these features.

The Examiner asserts that the double-azimuth head chips (i.e., the combination of the individual head chips 1 and 2) depicted in Figures 1(a)-1(b) of Okumura et al. disclose the at least one pair of magnetic heads as recited in independent Claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully contends that Okumura et al. fails to teach the features of the pair of magnetic heads as presently claimed. In fact, Applicant respectfully contends that Okumura et al. teaches away from the rotary head as recited in independent Claim 1. As noted by the Examiner, Okumura et al. states, “[t]he head chips 1, 2 become double-azimuth magnetic head chips.” Emphasis added. (Abstract). In contrast, as noted above, independent Claim 1 recites “wherein the magnetic heads are arranged so as to have the same height from the corresponding gaps to board surfaces of the corresponding boards and such that the magnetic heads fixed to the respective boards attached to the rotating cylinders are symmetric with respect to a rotating axis of the rotating cylinder.” In other words, the rotary head of claimed in Claim 1 does not include double azimuth heads.

Independent Claim 1 further recites “wherein, of the pair of magnetic heads, the one magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or greater than +10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board and the other magnetic head has an azimuth angle equal to or less than -10 degrees with respect to a normal of the board surface of the corresponding board.” Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited reference further fails to teach or suggest these features.

Applicant respectfully submits that although Okumura et al. does not refer to a specific numerical value of the azimuth angle of either heads chips 1 or 2, Okumura et al. discloses that the head chips 1 and 2 are disposed adjacent to each other on the head base 3 in the double azimuth magnetic head configuration. This configuration implies that the head chips 1 and 2 are

separated from each other by a small distance and therefore if the azimuth angles of each head chip were to become ± 10 degrees or greater, an area of exposure of the mold glass 6 of the sliding surface of each head chip would become greater due to relations with noise and sliding distance thereby leading to partial wear caused by the sliding of the head chips. As such, in a double azimuth head in which two head chips are disposed adjacent to each other (e.g., the configuration disclosed in Okumura et al.), azimuth angles are typically set less than ± 10 degrees to reduce the area of exposure. As such, Okumura et al. teaches away from the configuration of the pair of magnetic heads as recited in independent Claim 1. Therefore Applicant respectfully submits that Okumura et al. neither teaches nor even contemplates the configuration of the rotary head as claimed by independent Claim 1.

For at least the reasons cited, Applicant respectfully submits that Okumura et al. fails to anticipate independent Claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection against independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims be removed.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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